



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAURA DEVLIN
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY- FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of
HB 5170, An Act Concerning the Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs

Planning and Development Committee

February 25, 2022

Dear Chairmen Cassano and McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairs Needleman and Goupil, and Ranking Members Hwang and Zullo:

Thank you for raising HB 5170 An Act Concerning the Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs.

This bill, essentially mirrors legislation passed by the House of Representatives in 2018 (a year that the Senate closed its business before midnight, thus preventing it from reaching the upper chamber). While reasonably groundbreaking when it first passed the House six years ago, today it will bring our state's requirements on tethering and protective sheltering requirements in line with many other states.

HB 5170 does two primary things:

- 1) It **strengthens the current statute around tethering dogs** (CT Gen. Stat. §22-350a) by adding more clarity around extreme weather conditions and adding consideration for a dog's size and thickness of coat, ensuring any dog tethered is protected from injury by another animal, particularly wildlife, and providing for continuous access to sanitary drinking water when a dog is tethered for more than fifteen minutes.
- 2) HB 5170 also **provides additional important safeguards and clarification regarding the definition of adequate shelter**. It's no secret that we deal with harsh weather conditions in Connecticut - whether the frigid temperatures we've seen earlier this winter or extreme heat waves in the summer. The language in this bill will help prevent dogs suffering and/or dying from heat stroke or being left outside without adequate shelter.

The language of this bill is not about the residents who have sporting or working dogs who we know invest a significant amount of money and time training their dogs and value them providing safe, adequate shelter. Instead, it aims to protect dogs from harm by irresponsible dog owners and will give

Animal Control Officers the tools they've been asking for years to protect dogs from those irresponsible dog owners. That's why I strongly encourage you to move HB 5170 forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Devlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" and last name "Devlin" clearly distinguishable.

Laura Devlin
State Representative